GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1740
ANSWERED ON:14.03.2002
KILLING OF SOLDIERS BY PAKISTANI FIRING
BIKRAM KESHARI DEO;BIR SING MAHATO;BRAHMANAND MANDAL;DADICHILUKA VEERA GOURI SANKARA RAO;GANGASANDRA SIDDAPPA BASAVARAJ;HARIBHAI PARTHIBHAI CHAUDHARY;IQBAL AHMED SARADGI;RATTAN LAL KATARIA;THAAWAR CHAND GEHLOT

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a massive Pakistan army built up of menacing proportions all along the border and LoC was noticed during the month of December, 2001 and January, 2002;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken by the Government in this regard;

(d) whether Pakistani forces have conducted unprovoked firing along the LoC during the said period;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) the number of soldiers killed by the Pakistani firing on border and LoC during the said period;

(g) the loss of life and property suffered due to Pak firing;

(h) the compensation paid to the dependants of deceased soldiers; and

(i) the total damage caused to the Pakistani side?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES)

(a) to (c): Movement of Pakistan Army troops and armour to Indo-Pakistan borderwas observed shortly after the terrorist attack on the Parliament House on13th December, 2001. The entire Pakistan Army including the troops which were earlier guarding Pakistan-Afghanistan border have moved close to the Indo-Pakistan border and taken up positions.Indian Army has taken up suitable defensive posture to ensure security of our borders. Pakistan Army activities are constantly being monitored and a high state of vigil is being maintained.

(d) & (e): Firing along the Line of Control (LoC) and International Border (IB) of Jammu & Kashmir (J&K) is a regular feature. However, it is more pronounced in the areas where Pakistan is abetting infiltration. Indian troops deployed along the LoC and IB portion of J&K, essentially fire in an effort to prevent infiltration as also in response to firing by Pakistan.

(f) & (g): As per records available, a total of 18 Army personnel have died during the month of December, 2001 and January, 2002 due to Pakistani firing. 16 bunkers were destroyed and 14 bunkers damaged in Jammu & Kashmir during exchange of fire between December, 2001 and February, 2002.

(h) A comprehensive welfare package has been worked out and implemented for next of kin of deceased battle casualties killed in terrorist action, as applicable, after necessary documentation and after fulfilling legal requirements.

(i) During the exchange of fire in December, 2001 and January, 2002, a total of 134 Pakistani bunkers were destroyed and 64 were damaged.